

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 15-17 without prejudice pursuant to a telephone interview between the Applicant's representative and the Examiner on October 29, 2003. Claims 18-20 were previously cancelled.

Please amend the following claims which are pending in the present application:

1. (Currently amended) A degater comprising:

first and second degater halves which are movable relative to one another between a first position wherein the halves are adjacent to one another and a second position wherein the halves are separated, the halves, when in the first position, defining a space between them having separate volumes, one of the volumes being shaped to hold [[a]] one subassembly including a first electronic component having an encapsulant formed thereon and the other volume being shaped to hold [[a]] another subassembly including excess encapsulant, and the encapsulant on the first electronic component being connected to and at least partially severable from the excess encapsulant while the subassemblies are in the volumes;

a retainer having a first portion pivottally secured to the first half and having a second portion securing a first of the subassemblies, and moving the first subassembly with the first half when the halves are moved from the first to the second position; and

a separator secured to the first half and having a first surface contacting a

second of the subassemblies, the first surface moving away from the first half when the halves are moved from the first to the second position and biasing the second subassembly away from the first half toward the second half.

2. (Original) The degater of claim 1, wherein the excess encapsulant is at least partially severed from the encapsulant of the electronic component when the halves are moved from the first position to the second position.

3. (Original) The degater of claim 1, wherein a surface of one of the halves includes a recess being shaped to receive at least a portion of one of the subassemblies when the halves are in the first position.

4. (Original) The degater of claim 1, wherein a surface of one of the halves includes aligning supports positioned to support one of the subassemblies when the halves are in the first and second positions.

5. (Original) The degater of claim 1, wherein the volumes are adjacent to one another.

6. (Original) The degater of claim 1, wherein the excess encapsulant includes a cull and a runner.

7. (Original) The degater of claim 6, wherein the encapsulant is formed on all sides of the electronic component.

8. (Original) The degater of claim 1, wherein the second portion of the retainer includes a surface that adhesively attaches to the first subassembly.

9. (Original) The degater of claim 8, wherein the second portion of the retainer is a suction cup.

10. (Original) The degater of claim 1, wherein the separator is a pin which is at least partially retracted into the first half when the halves are in the first position and is at least partially extended out from the first half when the halves are in the second position.

11. (Original) The degater of claim 1, wherein a first of the volumes includes the first subassembly, a second of the volumes includes the second subassembly, and a third of the volumes includes a third subassembly having a second electronic device with encapsulant thereon, the encapsulant of the second electronic device being secured to and partially severable from the excess encapsulant of the first subassembly.

12. (Original) The degater of claim 11, wherein the first volume is adjacent to

the second and third volumes, and the second and third subassemblies are connected by the first subassembly.

13. (Original) The degater of claim 1, further comprising a hinge assembly securing the first half to the retainer, the hinge assembly having an axis, wherein the first half can pivot about the axis and relative to the retainer.

14. (Original) The degater of claim 1, further comprising a component with first and second portions, the first portion contacting a surface of the first half and the second portion contacting a second surface of the separator, the portions being biased relative to one another.

15-20. (Cancelled)